

MISSISSIPPI RIVER FORUM

Friday, October 14, 2016

8:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Science Museum of Minnesota—Discovery Hall

120 West Kellogg Boulevard, St. Paul, MN 55102

7:45-8:30 Registration and Continental Breakfast

8:30 Welcoming Remarks

Alison Brown. President, Science Museum of Minnesota.

John Anfinson. Superintendent, Mississippi National River and Recreation Area, National Park Service.

Katie Nyberg. Executive Director, Mississippi Park Connection.

8:45-9:30 Getting to Clean Water: How Do the Economics of Cropping Systems Measure Up?

Landscape-scale changes such as crop conversion and agricultural drainage have had profound, long-term effects on lakes, rivers and many associated upland species. What are the recent trends, and how does their connection to changes over the past century help us understand which best management practices and policies will meet our needs for clean water in the future? Are we on the path to clean water and productive habitat while maintaining agricultural profitability? What will it cost and how can we pay for it? We should have these questions neatly answered by the end of this session.

Shawn Schottler. St. Croix Watershed Research Station.

9:30-9:45 Break

9:45-10:30 Ecosystem Services: Putting People and Land into Water Management

From the White House to the field, water managers are talking about ecosystem services. This framework can help avoid unintended consequences of management actions, and shift the costs of water management to those who benefit—leading to better design and easier uptake. We'll look at how ecosystem services are being deployed worldwide and right here in Minnesota and Iowa, and we'll talk about how, in practice, distributing costs and benefits fairly remains a challenge.

Kate Brauman. University of Minnesota—Institute on the Environment.

10:30-11:15 Water: Right or Commodity?

Water has been in the news a lot lately. Crises of water treatment in Flint and Pittsburgh illustrate what can happen when communities grapple to provide water using aging infrastructure; and the diversion of Lake Michigan water by Waukesha, Wisconsin and local deliberations regarding White Bear Lake remind us even communities in so-called “water rich” regions struggle to keep up with demand for water. Is water a public right? How does our understanding of these issues change based on the makeup of communities and funding considerations? You won’t want to miss this discussion.

Matt Simcik. University of Minnesota—School of Public Health.

11:15-11:45 Break

11:45-12:30 Keynote Address: Minnesota Health Commissioner Dr. Edward Ehlinger

Governor Dayton appointed Edward Ehlinger, MD, MSPH, to serve as Minnesota Commissioner of Health in January 2011. Dr. Ehlinger is responsible for directing the work of the Minnesota Department of Health—the state’s lead public health agency, responsible for protecting, maintaining and improving the health of all Minnesotans. Prior to being appointed commissioner, Ehlinger served as director and chief health officer for Boynton Health Service at the University of Minnesota from 1995 - 2011. He has also served as an adjunct professor in the Division of Epidemiology and Community Health at the U of M School of Public Health. From 1980 to 1995, Ehlinger served as director of Personal Health Services for the Minneapolis Health Department.

We are honored that Dr. Ehlinger will be with us to discuss what it means to confront equity issues from a public agency context.

12:30 Closing Remarks

Lark Weller. Water Quality Coordinator, Mississippi National River and Recreation Area.

***This event has been brought to you by the National Park Service,
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